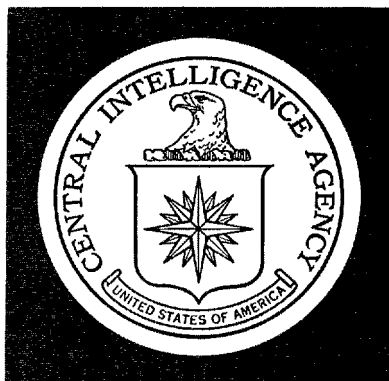


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[South Vietnam: The Communists launched a wave of shellings and limited ground probes against allied military targets over the weekend.

The bulk of the attacks took place in III and IV corps and generally resulted in light damage and casualties. Most of the bombardments were light in intensity and of short duration. The most significant ground attack was at Can Tho early on 13 January when the enemy temporarily seized a portion of the airfield. The shellings could have been designed to increase military pressure on allied forces while enemy units continue to lay the groundwork for another round of large-scale combat operations, particularly in the southern half of the country.

[REDACTED]

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Although many of the Communist main force units are presently not in position to engage in a new round of large-scale fighting, the enemy's local force and guerrilla units in coordination with some first-line forces could stage some sort of military initiative at any time. [REDACTED]

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(Map)]

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Lebanon: Lebanese fears of an impending Israeli attack have apparently been compounded by uncertainty over the extent of French offers of aid.

The Lebanese have now begun to believe that the French offer is something less than the "total support" which they thought had been offered last week in Paris. The arrival of De Gaulle's personal envoy, Georges Gorse, last Saturday may clarify the situation and give the Lebanese a sorely needed psychological lift. President Hilu is apparently deeply concerned that something is about to happen on the Lebanese border, although his fears seem to be based more on an awareness of Lebanon's vulnerability than on firm intelligence.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese are making an all-out effort to control terrorist raids and deprive Israel of any pretext for an attack.



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Czechoslovakia: The struggle over the amount of press freedom in Czechoslovakia shows no signs of diminishing.

Following an attack on the Czechoslovak press and labor unions by Slovak party boss Gustav Husak on 10 January, speculation has become widespread that new restrictions on political freedom are in the offing. In particular, there is concern that new censorship regulations are about to be introduced. In at least one case, a printers union refused to work on publications which ran articles "at variance" with the pre-invasion reformist policies.

Czechoslovakia's outspoken press has been a source of irritation to Moscow ever since the invasion. The Dubcek regime has reportedly drawn up a 21-point statement laying down new and tougher controls on the mass media, possibly in response to renewed Soviet insistence that something be done.

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NOTES

Brazil: Foreign Minister Magalhaes Pinto is ready to resign in protest against the government's assumption of wide dictatorial powers last month,

25X1 [redacted] The foreign minister, who has long had presidential ambitions, is not popular with the government's military backers and may believe his position is becoming untenable. He probably hopes that a dramatic resignation would make him the natural leader of the moderate forces who oppose the trend of the military government. Magalhaes Pinto has pursued a strong nationalistic line as foreign minister, but any likely successor would probably prove just as nationalistic, if not more so. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]

* * * *

Colombia-UK: The Colombian Navy is negotiating with the British regarding the possible acquisition of a submarine of World War II vintage, which would be the country's first ship of this type. Colombia thus joins other Latin American countries, including Argentina and Brazil, which have discussed submarines with the British. [redacted]
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25X1 [redacted]

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